

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, 1,883 Americans are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, 8,100+ from the Korean War, 120+ from the Cold War, and over 78,000 from WWII, plus CDR Michael Scott Speicher, USN, still Missing in Action from the Persian Gulf War, and the families and friends of these missing Americans, as well as their fellow veterans, still endure uncertainty concerning their fate; and,

*Whereas*, U.S. Government intelligence and other evidence indicate that Vietnam could account for scores of missing Americans, including many of the 387 still missing in Laos and the 56 still unaccounted for in Cambodia, by unilaterally locating and returning identifiable remains and providing archival records to answer other discrepancies; and,

*Whereas*, The Bush Administration has strengthened and renewed POW/MIA accounting efforts with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Russia, Communist China, North Korea, and other nations to account for Americans whose fates are as yet unknown, though much more needs to be done; and,

*Whereas*, The state of South Dakota supports continued priority by the administration to account as fully as possible for Americans still missing from our nation's wars; and,

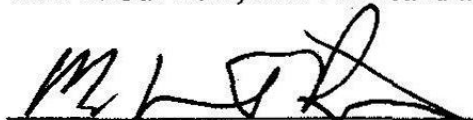
*Whereas*, The state of South Dakota calls on the President to use meetings with foreign officials to ask for their personal assistance to account for Americans, alive and dead, and return them to the United States, in particular to ask the Prime Minister of Vietnam to authorize locating and returning remains that would account for scores of America's POW/MIAs and providing records with answers on many more, and to ask the President of Russia to authorize provision of records relevant to all past wars in which the fate of Americans is still unknown:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2003, as

### *POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY*

in honor of all American POW/MIAs, particularly the eight from the state of South Dakota still missing from the Vietnam War and those still unaccounted for from the Korean War, Cold War and WWII, and encourage all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

*Attest:*

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

